6/5/72

Mr. John Leonard, Editor
New York Times Sunday Book Revie.
229 W. 43 St.,
New York, N.Y. 10036

Dear Mr. Leonard,

As I presume he has told you, the young man who phoned you with some indignation after appearance of John Kaplan's attempted literary assassination in your section, has been in touch with me. He now tells me that you told him you had written me upon receipt of my first letter and that an original carbon of my letter to Geoffrey Wolff was not included in my most recent letter.

Both statements are not true, if you made them.

If you were not dependant upon such notoriously corrupt sources for understanding of my work, you would know that the concern of Rush-UP is the integrity of the institutions of our society, including the press. But from what you printed there is no way for your readers or you to know anything about the book or its contents.

Thus I anticipate that this disreputable thing you have done and repented becomes part of the story of the political assassinations and their consequences, for you have proved one of the points made in the book.

Having with some pain learned that any responsible disagreement with the official mythology about the political assassinations will be suppressed or misrepresented and where mentioned at all, has a fine expectation of being treated with skilled dishonesty, I have undertaken an additional responsibility, that of making a record for the future. In this way those who have abdicated their responsibilities to any kind of decent, representative society will be enrolled not as by Abou Ben Adhem, not in an honorable listing. I regret this is your preference, so clearly expressed. Unlike the rubbish you print and apparently believe, arrangements have already been made for my files to be part of an archive in a major university. And, I preserve duplicates of everything out of my personal possession.

So there will be no haziness in this record, I tell you that I have heard nothing from you or anyone else at the Times, directly or indirectly, except for what this young man has told me, since before my May 2 letter was written, long before. You have not phoned me and I have no reason to believe you have written me. Your envelope has a printed return address. Had the alleged letter been misdirected, in a month it should have been returned to you.

I look forward with some interest to the coming reflection of your honesty and integrity in the page of letters you say you will print. I have had experience with selections and editing in the past as I have with you. I'd appreciate the return of the original carbon of my 1965 letter to Wolff and of Kaplan's USIA writing.

With sincere disappointment,
Harold Weisberg